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X-FACTOR



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WHEN SUPERHUMANITY NEEDS A DETECTIVE AGENCY, THEY CALL UPON MADROX THE MULTIPLE MAN AND HIS MUTANT TEAM OF INVESTIGATORS...

X-FACTOR



PREVIOUSLY...

MAYOR J. JONAH JAMESON, CALLING IN AN OLD FAVOR, HAS ASKED X-FACTOR TO LOOK INTO THE SHOOTING DEATH OF AN OLD FRIEND OF HIS, ONE GENERAL RYAN. UNKNOWN TO EITHER JAMESON OR THE TEAM, RYAN WAS KILLED BY THE MYSTERIOUS WOMAN CALLED BALLISTIQUE, WHO HAS CONNECTED WITH A FORMER COWORKER NAMED ROCOCO AND IS HEADING TO NYC TO MEET WITH THEIR THIRD ASSOCIATE SYLVIOUS... WITH JAMESON AS THE TRIO'S NEXT TARGET.

NOTE: THIS ISSUE TAKES PLACE BEFORE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #654.

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**CITY HALL
MANHATTAN.**

MR. MAYOR, IS THERE SOMETHING YOU'VE FORGOTTEN TO TELL ME?

LIKE THAT YOU HIRED SOME DETECTIVE AGENCY TO LOOK INTO THE RYAN KILLING?



NEED I REMIND YOU THAT I'M YOUR HEAD OF INVESTIGATION?

ARE YOU DISSATISFIED WITH MY WORK?

NOT AT ALL, MS. HARDY.



BUT GENERAL RYAN IS NOT A NEW YORK CITIZEN, NOR WAS HE KILLED IN NEW YORK.

I WON'T HAVE THE TAXPAYERS' DOLLARS PAYING YOU TO LOOK INTO WHAT IS, FOR ME, A PRIVATE MATTER.



CAN WE TALK ABOUT THIS IN PERSON?

CAN'T RIGHT NOW. ON MY WAY TO THE PROTEST.



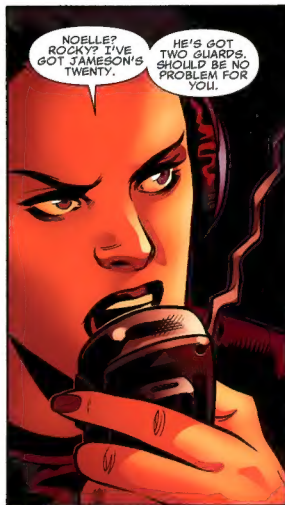
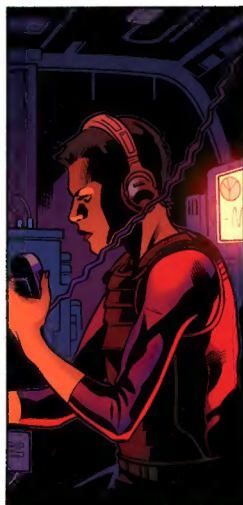
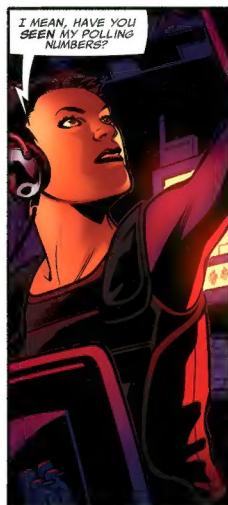
MR. MAYOR, ARE YOU ON YOUR CELL PHONE?

YEAH, WHY?

YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT A SECURE LINE, RIGHT? YOU SHOULDN'T BE BROADCASTING YOUR WHEREABOUTS.



OH, FELICIA, FOR GOD'S SAKE...



DEEP SCARS



NO
PROBLEM AT
ALL, SYL.

ASK FOR
J. JONAH JAMESON
TOMORROW...

...AND YOU
WILL FIND HIM A
GRAVE MAN.

**RICHMOND CEMETERY,
VIRGINIA.**

WE SEEM
TO SPEND AN
INORDINATE AMOUNT
OF TIME IN
GRAVEYARDS.

COULD
BE WORSE,
LONGSHOT.
WE COULD BE
FIGHTING
VAMPIRES.

MUTANTS
FIGHTING VAMPIRES?
HOW WEIRD WOULD
THAT BE?

BUT YOU'RE
NOT A MUTANT
ANYMORE,
RICTOR.

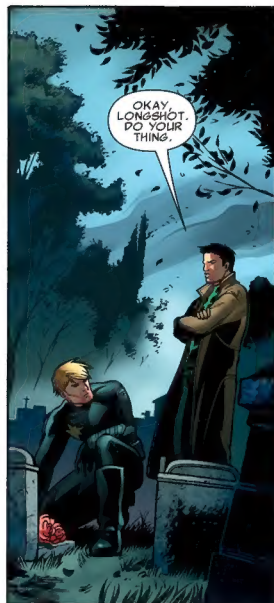
YEAH,
THANKS FOR
REMINDING
ME THERE,
STAR.



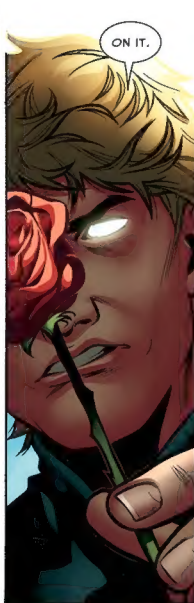
THERE,
THERE IT
IS.



GUESS THEY
HAVEN'T HAD A
CHANCE TO BURY
THE GENERAL YET.
BUT THAT'S
DEFINITELY HIS
WIFE'S GRAVE.



OKAY,
LONGSHOT.
DO YOUR
THING.



ON IT.



Y'KNOW,
STAR, I WAS
WONDERING...
YOU AND
LONGSHOT LOOK
AND EVEN TALK
KINDA SIMILAR.

AND YOU BOTH
HAVE THE EYE
THING, AND COME
FROM MOJO
WORLD...



ARE YOU
ASKING IF
WE'RE RELATED
IN SOME WAY?

I GUESS
I AM.



WE ARE,
AS A MATTER
OF FACT, IT'S
AN ODD
STORY.

LONGSHOT
IS MY--



I GOT
IT!

HUH?



THE SHOOTER WAS A WOMAN. SHE'S STANDING JUST TO THE RIGHT, MADROX.

WHOSE RIGHT? MY RIGHT OR YOUR RIGHT?

DOES IT MATTER?

I... GUESS NOT, NO.



RICTORI GET OVER HERE!

BUT SHATTERSTAR WAS JUST ABOUT TO TELL ME--

IT CAN WAIT!



ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! SHEESH.

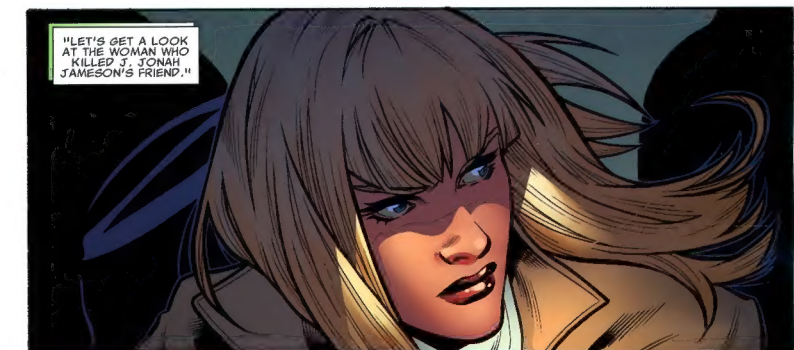
GOT THAT COMPUTER PAD OF YOURS?

RIGHT HERE.



OKAY, LET'S START WITH THE SHAPE OF HER HEAD.

"LET'S GET A LOOK
AT THE WOMAN WHO
KILLED J. JONAH
JAMESON'S FRIEND."





CARE TO
TAKE IT UP
WITH ME?

NO
FREE
RIDES

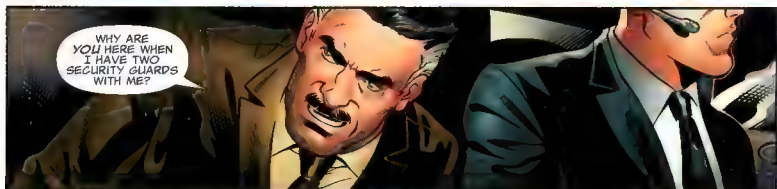
FOR
AMERICANS

NO
FREE
RIDES

STOP
THE
INVASION



HERE'S
WHAT I DON'T
UNDERSTAND...



WHY ARE
YOU HERE WHEN
I HAVE TWO
SECURITY GUARDS
WITH ME?



BECAUSE WE WERE
CONCERNED THAT,
SINCE YOU HAVE A
DIRECT CONNECTION
TO THE GENERAL...

...HIS MURDER
MIGHT NOT BE
AN ISOLATED
INCIDENT.



SO I'M WITH
YOU UNTIL WE'RE
SURE YOU'RE NOT
A TARGET.

RIGHT,
RIGHT. I
FORGOT. WHAT
A GREAT
IDEA.

I KNOWWWW.
PLUS WE'LL
HAVE ADDITIONAL
MEMBERS OF THE
TEAM COVERING
WHATEVER PUBLIC
VENUES YOU'RE
HEADING TO.



SWEET
GIRL.

YES,
SIR.



SIR, WE'RE
ALMOST AT
THE PROTEST
SITE.

HOW'S IT
LOOKING?

ACTUALLY...
A LOT QUIETER
THAN I WOULD
HAVE THOUGHT.



WELL?
COME ON. HERE'S
THE FACE OF THE
"ENEMY!" SAY
WHAT YOU WANT,
BECAUSE I'M A
MUSLIM.

YEAH.
ME TOO.



WHAT
ARE YOU--?
YOU'RE NOT
MUSLIM!

I FIGGERED
WE WUZ DOWN
A WHOLE "I'M
SPARTACUS" THING
WHERE WE ALL
SHOUT OUT--



BUT I
REALLY AM
MUSLIM.
YOU
ARE?
OF
COURSE.
WHATTAYA
MEAN, "OF
COURSE"?



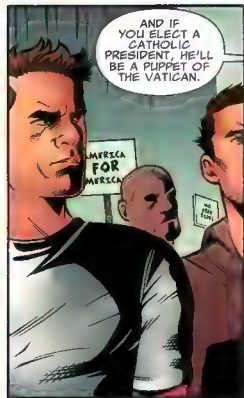
MY MOTHER'S
ALGERIAN NINETY-
EIGHT PERCENT OF
ALGERIANS ARE
MUSLIMS. DO
THE MATH

WHY DO
YOU HAVE A
PROBLEM
WITH--?

NO!
NOT AT...
NO.



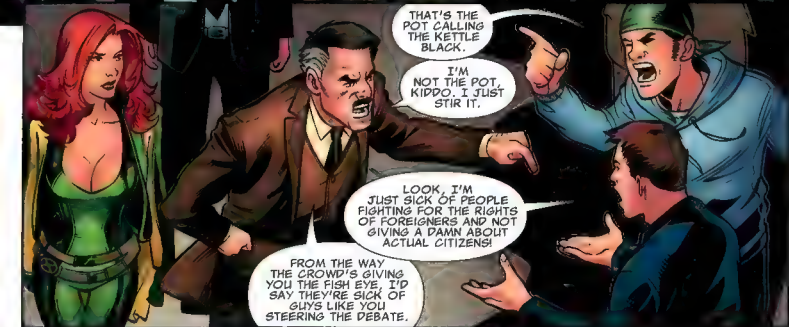
MAN, AND
I WAS JUST
STARTIN' TO WRAP
MYSELF AROUND
THE WHOLE GAY
THING WITH
RICTOR...





AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT THEY SAID IN 1960 SO PEOPLE WOULDN'T VOTE FOR JFK.

OF COURSE, THAT WAS ONE OF THE EXTREME VIEWS. FUNNY THING, THOUGH: EXTREMISTS OF ALL STRIPES GET THE MOST ATTENTION.



THAT'S THE POT CALLING THE KETTLE BLACK.

I'M NOT THE POT, KIDDO. I JUST STIR IT.

LOOK, I'M JUST SICK OF PEOPLE FIGHTING FOR THE RIGHTS OF FOREIGNERS AND NOT GIVING A DAMN ABOUT ACTUAL CITIZENS!

FROM THE WAY THE CROWD'S GIVING YOU THE FISH EYE, I'D SAY THEY'RE SICK OF GUYS LIKE YOU STEERING THE DEBATE.



THE BEST IDEAS STEER THE DEBATE, NOT THE PEOPLE! BOTTOM LINE, WE JUST WANT OUR COUNTRY BACK!



FUNNY THING: I KEEP HEARING THAT FROM THE FAR ENDS OF BOTH SIDES.

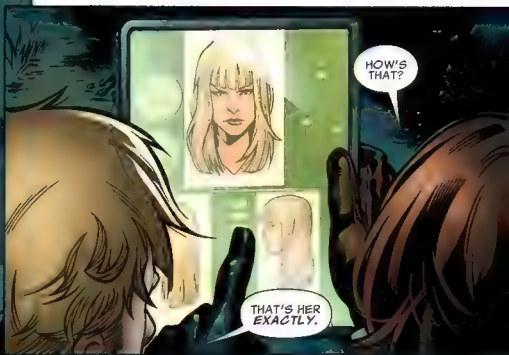
"WE WANT OUR COUNTRY BACK."


WHERE'D IT GO? IF NEITHER SIDE HAS IT, THEN WHO TOOK IT?



GUESS WHAT? I DID.









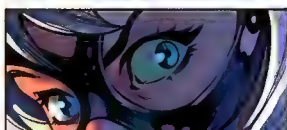
HUH. LOOKS
LIKE THE OLD
MAN'S GOT SOME
SERIOUS JUICE.
WHO KNEW?

STILL,
CONSIDERING
ALL THE GRIEF
HE'S GIVEN SPIDER,
HE SEEMS MORE
LIKE JUST A BIG
OL' HYPOCRITE
TO ME.



HE'S ALL FOR
PEOPLES' RIGHTS
UNLESS THEY'RE
WEARING MASKS.

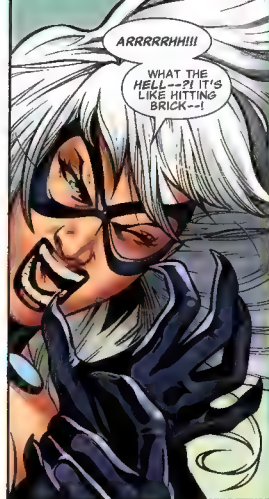
WELL,
WHATEVER. HE
IS MY BOSS.
BOTTOM LINE,
AND I HAVE TO
HAVE HIS
BACK.



BAD LUCK
FOR YOU
THAT I HEARD
THAT!







ARRRRRH!!!

WHAT THE
HELL--?! IT'S
LIKE HITTING
BRICK--!



UNNNFFFFF!

SPEAKING
OF HITTING THE
BRICKS...

...WHY
DON'T
YOU?



SORRY,
HONEY, YOU
GOT SOME
GOOD
MOVES...

...AND
ABSOLUTELY
THE SWEETEST
LITTLE RUMP...

...BUT
I'M ON A
SCHEDULE.



SYL?
HIT A SPEED
BUMP.

YOU OKAY,
ROCCO?

YEAH, IT'S
ALL GOOD. I'M
GETTING INTO
POSITION.

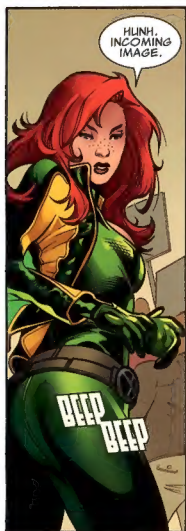


ALTHOUGH,
Y'ASK ME,
NOELLE'S NOT
GONNA NEED
ME.

I MEAN,
I'M HAPPY TO
BE BALLISTIQUE'S
BACKUP, BUT
LET'S FACE IT...



"JAMESON'S NEVER GONNA SEE IT COMING."



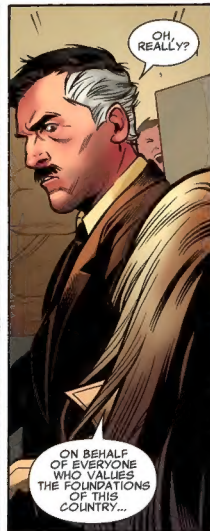
HUH. INCOMING IMAGE.



SO THAT'S OUR MURDER SUSPECT. CHARMING.



MR. MAYOR? I COULDN'T AGREE MORE.



OH, REALLY?

ON BEHALF OF EVERYONE WHO VALUES THE FOUNDATIONS OF THIS COUNTRY...



YOU'RE THE MAN.



WHAT CAN I SAY? YOU'RE RIGHT ON TARGET.





M, FERGIT
'ERI GO GET
JAMESON T'SAFETY!
I'LL TAKE 'ER
SHE AIN'T EVEN
ARMED---



BLAM



WHA---?



WELL...
THAT AIN'T
RIGHT...

GUIDO!



SYL?
BALLISTIQUE HIT
A SNAG. DON'T
WORRY...

I'M
ON IT.

X

NEXT

